

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*Submitted via FOIAonline*

**Re: Freedom of Information Act Request**

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552 et seq., Conservation Law Foundation (“CLF”) hereby requests all records pertaining to communication between the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as follows:

- All audits of MWRA by EPA, PG Environment, and/or other third-party consulting firms from January 1, 2017 to present.
- All MWRA responses to audits conducted by EPA, PG Environment, and/or other third-party consulting firms from January 1, 2017 to present.
- All communications between MWRA and EPA employees discussing the effectiveness of MWRA’s enforcement of the Industrial Pretreatment Program January 1, 2017 to present.

Please provide the requested records in electronic format if possible. To the extent you believe any requested record is exempt from disclosure, please provide a log identifying which documents you claim are exempt, specify the exemption or privilege that you assert is applicable, and explain why you believe such exemption or privilege is applicable.

CLF requests that any fees incurred in conjunction with this request be waived, as disclosure of the requested records is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); 40 C.F.R. § 2.107(l); Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 66, § 10(d)(v) (West). CLF is a 501(c)(3) organization and is seeking this information to determine the environmental impacts of this facility and what environmental harms are affecting our members. This information will inform CLF’s litigation and legislative advocacy. As part of both litigation and legislative work, CLF informs CLF members and the

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public, including residents near the facility, about the current state of environmental permitting and compliance at the facility listed above. This information will also assist in strategizing and prioritizing other components of CLF's work, including communications, community-based advocacy, and community-engaged research. Those efforts all involve communicating and working with members of the public and informing them of ongoing environmental concerns.

Communications is an integral part of CLF's advocacy. We have a professional communications team that develops multi-media strategic communications plans for our initiatives and campaigns designed to deliver our message on multiple platforms to reach and engage diverse audiences. Communications tactics may include traditional media outreach, opinion pieces, blogs, features, and the creation and distribution of visual content to build a strong narrative and raise public awareness. We also disseminate environmental news and analysis by our staff of experts to CLF members throughout New England via our website and email communications. In 2020 our website had 358,214 visits. In addition, as of February 2021, our email list is approximately 38,000 people, our Facebook audience is 20,943, on Twitter, CLF has 8,822 followers, on LinkedIn, we can reach 2,210 followers, and on Instagram, we have 1,366 followers. In 2020, CLF was quoted in the media 3,277 times in outlets including The Boston Globe, WBUR, Our Daily Planet, Chelsea Record, and many others.

In the event that our request for a fee waiver is denied, we request that the total cost be minimized by providing the information in electronic format. Also, if fees are assessed, please provide in advance a written, itemized, good faith estimate of such fees. *Id.* at 32.07(2)(b).

I appreciate your prompt response. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 850-1782 or [jgibson@clf.org](mailto:jgibson@clf.org) if you have any questions. Thank you for your assistance with this request.

Sincerely,  
Juanita Gibson  
Staff Attorney (admission pending)  
Conservation Law Foundation